

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:JCUNNINGHAM:MS
APPROVED BY EUR/WE - EDWARD M. ROWELL
EB - MR. JONES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ECON, SP, US

SUBJECT: JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING

REFS: A. STATE 299380 B. MADRID 10326

1. DEPARTMENT RECEIVED FOLLOWING PRO MEMOIRE FROM THE
SPANISH EMBASSY DECEMBER 21:

BEGIN TEXT: THE U.S. EMBASSY IN MADRID HAS ADVISED THE
SPANISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT MR. KATZ WILL
ONLY BE AVAILABLE FOR THE MEETINGS OF THE JOINT ECONOMIC
COMMITTEE ON JANUARY 16TH, 1978 AND PROPOSES THAT THE
EXPERTS MEETINGS TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO THAT DATE.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS ADVISED US THAT
UNFORTUNATELY, THEY CANNOT FIT THAT SCHEDULE AND SUGGESTS
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THAT THE MEETINGS OF THE EXPERTS COMMITTEE TAKE PLACE ON
JANUARY 16TH, 17TH AND 18TH AND THE PLENARY MEETING
PRESIDED BY MESSRS. KATZ AND GAMIR ON THURSDAY, JANUARY
19TH, 1978. END TEXT.

2. DEPARTMENT INFORMED THE SPANISH EMBASSY ON DECEMBER 23
THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ HAS AGREED TO THE SPANISH

PROPOSAL (REF B) THAT THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE TAKE PLACE ON JANUARY 19, AND THAT IT BE PRECEDED BY WORKING GROUP MEETINGS.

WE INFORMED THE SPANISH THAT WE AGREE THAT ANY OF THE DAYS PRECEEDING JANUARY 19 WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THESE MEETINGS. ACTUAL SCHEDULING OF THESE WORKING LEVEL DISCUSSIONS, WE ADDED, WILL HAVE TO AWAIT DETERMINATION OF THE SPECIFIC POINTS TO BE DISCUSSED, AND THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN ON THE COMPOSITION OF ITS DELEGATION.

3. WE HAVE ORALLY REMINDED THE SPANISH EMBASSY THAT WE ARE AWAITING THEIR RESPONSE TO OUR SUGGESTED AGENDA AND HAVE URGED THEM TO MAKE REQUESTS FOR WORKING LEVEL APPOINTMENTS TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC TOPICS. WE SHARE EMBASSY CONCERN (PARA 5, REF B) ABOUT DURATION OF PRELIMINARY TALKS, AND HOPE THAT SPANISH WILL COME TO WASHINGTON WITH A REALISTIC ATTITUDE TOWARD WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED, EVEN OVER A FOUR-DAY PERIOD. WE WELCOME EMBASSY COMMENT, WHERE APPROPRIATE, ON AGENDA ITEMS AS THEY EMERGE, AND ON PROPOSALS OR REQUESTS THE SPANISH MIGHT PRESENT DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING. VANCE

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